

VII. Claims

What is claimed is:

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5 1. A method of processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application software, comprising the steps of:
 receiving a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;
 initiating a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application software, in response to the first prompt;
 processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software;
 receiving a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and
 terminating the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first prompt is a start-run message.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second prompt is an end-run message.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the processing step further comprises the substeps of:

5 transmitting information from the mail processing device to the identification code server; and

 receiving information from the identification code server at the mail processing device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein the mailpiece information includes an identification code.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the mailpiece information includes a postal code.

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14. The method of claim 12, wherein the an identification code is an ID tag.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
passing a parameter from the sorter application software to the identification code server to indicate a mail processing device type.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the sorter application software is on a network.

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18. A system for processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application software, comprising:
a receiving component configured to receive a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;

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an initiating component configured to initiate a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application software, in response to the first prompt;

5 a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software;

a receiving component configured to receive a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and

10 a terminating component configured to terminate the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

15 The system of claim 18, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the first prompt is a start-run message.

20 The system of claim 18, wherein the second prompt is an end-run message.

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24. The system of claim 18, wherein the processing component includes:
a transmitting component configured to transmit information from the mail
processing device to the identification code server; and
a receiving component configured to receive information from the identification
code server at the mail processing device.

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25. The system of claim 18, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing
Bar Code Sorter.

26. The system of claim 18, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar
Code Sorter.

27. The system of claim 18, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier
Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

28. The system of claim 18, wherein the mail processing device is an Output
Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

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29. The system of claim 18, wherein the mailpiece information includes an
identification code.

30. The system of claim 18, wherein the mailpiece information includes a postal code.
31. The system of claim 29, wherein the an identification code is an ID tag.
32. The system of claim 30, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.
33. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
a passing component configured to pass a parameter from the sorter application software to the identification code server to indicate a mail processing device type.
34. The system of claim 18, wherein the sorter application software is on a network.
35. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application software, the computer readable code comprising:
a receiving module configured to receive a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;
an initiating module configured to initiate a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application software, in response to the first prompt;

a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software;

5 a receiving module configured to receive a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and

 a terminating module configured to terminate the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

36. A system of processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application software, comprising:

 means for receiving a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;

 means for initiating a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application software, in response to the first prompt;

 means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software;

 means for receiving a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and

20 means for terminating the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

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37. A mail processing system for processing a mailpiece, comprising:
a mail processing device;
an identification code reader connected to the mail processing device; and
sorter application software for communicating between the mail processing
device and an identification code server.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing
Bar Code Sorter.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar
Code Sorter.

40. The system of claim 37, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier
Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

41. The system of claim 37, wherein the mail processing device is an Output
Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

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42. The system of claim 37, wherein the identification code reader is a RBCS ID Tag
Reader.

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43. The system of claim 37, wherein the identification code reader is a Universal ID Tag Reader.

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44. The system of claim 37, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

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45. The system of claim 37, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

46. The system of claim 37, wherein the sorter application software is on a network.

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47. A method for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising the steps of:
reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;
transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and
processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software.

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48. The method of claim 47, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

49. The method of claim 47, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

50. The method of claim 47, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

51. The method of claim 47, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

52. The system of claim 47, wherein the identification code reader is a RBCS ID Tag Reader.

53. The method of claim 47, wherein the identification code reader is a Universal ID Tag Reader.

54. The method of claim 47, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

55. The method of claim 47, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

20 56. The method of claim 47, wherein the identification code is an ID Tag.

57. The method of claim 47, wherein the sorter application software is on a network.

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58. A system for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:
a reading component configured to read an identification code from the
mailpiece, using an identification code reader;
a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification code to an
identification code server, via sorter application software; and
a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between
the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application
software.

59. The system of claim 58, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing
Bar Code Sorter.

60. The system of claim 58, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar
Code Sorter.

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61. The system of claim 58, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier
Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

62. The system of claim 58, wherein the mail processing device is an Output
Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

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63. The system of claim 58, wherein the identification code reader is a RBCS ID Tag Reader.
64. The system of claim 58, wherein the identification code reader is a Universal ID Tag Reader. 5
65. The system of claim 58, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.
66. The system of claim 58, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.
67. The system of claim 58, wherein the identification code is an ID Tag.
68. The system of claim 58, wherein the sorter application software is on a network.
69. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, the computer readable code comprising:
 - a reading module configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;
 - 20 a transmitting module configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and

a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software.

5 70. A system of processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:
 means for reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;
 means for transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and
 means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software.

15 71. A method of processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application hardware, comprising the steps of:
 receiving a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;
 initiating a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application hardware, in response to the first prompt;
 processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware;
20 receiving a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and

terminating the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

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73. The method of claim 71, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

74. The method of claim 71, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

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75. The method of claim 71, wherein the first prompt is a start-run message.

76. The method of claim 71, wherein the second prompt is an end-run message.

77. The method of claim 71, wherein the processing step further comprises the substeps of:

transmitting information from the mail processing device to the identification code server; and

receiving information from the identification code server at the mail processing device.

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78. The method of claim 71, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

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79. The method of claim 71, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

80. The method of claim 71, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

81. The method of claim 71, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

82. The method of claim 71, wherein the mailpiece information includes an identification code.

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83. The method of claim 71, wherein the mailpiece information includes a postal code.

84. The method of claim 82, wherein the an identification code is an ID tag.

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85. The method of claim 83, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

86. The method of claim 71, further comprising the step of:
passing a parameter from the sorter application hardware to the identification code server to indicate a mail processing device type.

87. The method of claim 71, wherein the sorter application hardware is on a network.

88. A system for processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application hardware, comprising:
a receiving component configured to receive a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;
an initiating component configured to initiate a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application software, in response to the first prompt;
a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware;
a receiving component configured to receive a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and
a terminating component configured to terminate the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

89. The system of claim 88, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

90. The system of claim 88, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

5 91. The system of claim 88, wherein the mail processing device is a bar code sorter.

92. The system of claim 88, wherein the first prompt is a start-run message.

93. The system of claim 88, wherein the second prompt is an end-run message.

94. The system of claim 88, wherein the processing component includes:
a transmitting component configured to transmit information from the mail processing device to the identification code server; and
a receiving component configured to receive information from the identification code server at the mail processing device.

95. The system of claim 88, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

20 96. The system of claim 88, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

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97. The system of claim 88, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

5 98. The system of claim 88, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

99. The system of claim 88, wherein the mailpiece information includes an identification code.

100. The system of claim 88, wherein the mailpiece information includes a postal code.

101. The system of claim 99, wherein the an identification code is an ID tag.

15 102. The system of claim 100, wherein the postal code is a POSTNET code.

103. The system of claim 88, further comprising:
a passing component configured to pass a parameter from the sorter application hardware to the identification code server to indicate a mail processing device type.

20 104. The system of claim 88, wherein the sorter application hardware is on a network.

105. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application hardware, the computer readable code comprising:

5 a receiving module configured to receive a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;

an initiating module configured to initiate a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application hardware, in response to the first prompt;

a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware;

a receiving module configured to receive a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and

15 a terminating module configured to terminate the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

106. A system of processing mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application hardware, comprising:

20 means for receiving a first prompt from an operator of the mail processing device;

means for initiating a connection between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application hardware, in response to the first prompt;

5 means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware;

means for receiving a second prompt from the operator of the mail processing device; and

means for terminating the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server, in response to the second prompt.

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107. A mail processing system for processing a mailpiece, comprising:

a mail processing device;

an identification code reader connected to the mail processing device; and

15 sorter application hardware for communicating between the mail processing device and an identification code server.

108. The system of claim 107, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

20 109. The system of claim 107, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

110. The system of claim 107, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

111. The system of claim 107, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

112. The system of claim 107, wherein the identification code reader is a RBCS ID Tag Reader.

113. The system of claim 107, wherein the identification code reader is a Universal ID Tag Reader.

114. The system of claim 107, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

115. The system of claim 107, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

116. The system of claim 107, wherein the sorter application hardware is on a network.

117. A method for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising the steps of:

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reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and

5 processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware.

118. The method of claim 117, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

119. The method of claim 117, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

120. The method of claim 117, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

121. The method of claim 117, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

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122. The system of claim 117, wherein the identification code reader is a RBCS ID Tag Reader.

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123. The method of claim 117, wherein the identification code reader is a Universal ID Tag Reader.

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124. The method of claim 117, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

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125. The method of claim 117, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

126. The method of claim 117, wherein the identification code is an ID Tag.

127. The method of claim 117, wherein the sorter application hardware is on a network.

128. A system for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:
a reading component configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;
a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and
a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware.

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129. The system of claim 128, wherein the mail processing device is a Mail Processing Bar Code Sorter.

5 130. The system of claim 128, wherein the mail processing device is a Delivery Bar Code Sorter.

10 131. The system of claim 128, wherein the mail processing device is a Carrier Sequence Bar Code Sorter.

15 132. The system of claim 128, wherein the mail processing device is an Output Subsystem/Bar Code Sorter.

133. The system of claim 128, wherein the identification code reader is a RBCS ID Tag Reader.

134. The system of claim 128, wherein the identification code reader is a Universal ID Tag Reader.

20 135. The system of claim 128, wherein the identification code server is a PICS server.

136. The system of claim 128, wherein the identification code server is a SICS server.

137. The system of claim 128, wherein the identification code is an ID Tag.

138. The system of claim 128, wherein the sorter application hardware is on a network.

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139. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, the computer readable code comprising:

a reading module configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

a transmitting module configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and

a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware.

140. A system of processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:

means for reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

means for transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and means for processing mailpiece information between

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the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware.

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